

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3733
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"AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 1330
US LIAISON MISSION PEKING 064

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5358

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AL, IT
SUBJECT: ALBANIAN PARTY DELEGATION TO VISIT ITALY

A MARCH 29 ITALIAN NEWS AGENCY (ANSA) STORY REPORTS THAT AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION OF THE ALBANIAN WORKERS' PARTY WILL VISIT ITALY DURING THE SECOND HALF OF APRIL. ACCORDING TO ANSA, THE DELEGATION WILL PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING AT ROME ORGANIZED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ITALY (MARXIST-LENINIST) TO COMMEMORATE THE DEATH OF GRAMACI AND TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ITALIAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT. ANSA NOTES THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION OF THE ALBANIAN WORKERS' PARTY IS COMING TO ITALY IN FIFTEEN YEARS. (THE LAST VISIT OCCURRED AT THE TIME OF THE EIGHTH CONGRESS OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY.)

2. COMMENT. WE FIND IT CURIOUS THAT THE ALBANIANS SHOULD BE SENDING A DELEGATION TO AN EVENT AS INSIGNIFICANT AS THE ONE BEING ORGANIZED. (A PARTY CONGRESS WOULD BE ANOTHER THING.) THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE CHINESE ORIENTED ITALIAN MARXIST-LENINIST GROUP HAS
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EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PURGES IN CHINA CENTERING AROUND THE GROUP OF FOUR. FROM REPORTING WE HAVE SEEN, THE ALBANIANS SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT PERPLEXED BY THE PURGES. ACCORDINGLY, THE NATURE OF THE PRESENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHINA AND ALBANIA COULD BE AT THE CORE OF THE CLOSER TIES BETWEEN THE ALBANIAN PARTY AND THE ITALIAN GROUP.

3. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, THE
FORMER ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO TIRANA SUGGESTED THAT
HOXHA'S REMARKS AT THE RECENT ALBANIAN WORKER'S PARTY
CONGRESS ABOUT IMPROVING TIES WITH ITALY
SHOULD BE INTERPRETED IN TERMS OF DEVELOPING LINKS
BETWEEN LIKE-MINDED POLITICAL GROUPS IN ITALY. THE
DECISION OF THE ALBANIANS TO SEND THEIR DELEGATION
TO THE MEETING ORGANIZED BY THE MARXIST-LENINIST
GROUP COULD BE A SHRED OF EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD SUPPORT
THE AMBASSADOR'S THESIS.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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